

**PREJUDICE AND STEREOTYPE REFLECTED IN WILLIAM  
SHAKESPEARE'S *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING* (1600): A SOCIAL  
PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE**



**PUBLICATION ARTICLE**

**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for getting Bachelor Degree of Education  
in English Department**

**Proposed by:**

**ATINA RAHMAWATI FIRDA**

**A 320100146**

**SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION  
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

**2014**



**UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH SURAKARTA**  
**FAKULTAS KEGURUAN DAN ILMU PENDIDIKAN**

Sekretariat JL. A. Yani Tromol Pos 1 Pabelan, Kartasura, Surakarta 57102 Telp. (0271) 717417 Ext. 188

**Surat Persetujuan Artikel Publikasi Ilmiah**

Yang bertanda tangan dibawah ini pembimbing skripsi/tugas akhir:

Nama : Dr. M. Thoyibi, MS

NIK : 410

Nama : Mauliy Halwat H. Ph. D

NIK : 727

Telah membaca dan mencermati naskah artikel publikasi ilmiah, yang merupakan ringkasan skripsi (tugas akhir) dari mahasiswa:

Nama : Atina Rahmawati Firda

NIM : A320100146

Program Studi : Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris

Judul Skripsi : **PREJUDICE AND STEREOTYPE REFLECTED IN  
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S MUCH ADO ABOUT  
NOTHING (1600) : SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGICAL  
PERSPECTIVE**

Naskah artikel tersebut, layak dan dapat disetujui untuk dipublikasikan.

Demikian persetujuan dibuat, semoga dapat digunakan seperlunya.

Surakarta, 1 Desember 2014

Pembimbing I

**Dr. M. Thoyibi, MS**  
NIK. 410

Pembimbing II

**Mauliy Halwat H. Ph.**  
NIK. 727

**SURAT PERNYATAAN  
PUBLIKASI KARYA ILMIAH**

Bismillahirrahmanirrohim

Yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini, saya:

Nama : Atina Rahmawati Firda

NIM : A320100146

Fakultas/Jurusan : KIP / Bahasa Inggris

Jenis : Research Paper

Judul : PREJUDICE AND STEREOTYPE REFLECTED IN  
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S *MUCH ADO ABOUT  
NOTHING* (1600) : SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGICAL  
PERSPECTIVE

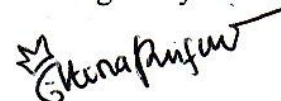
Dengan ini menyatakan bahwa saya menyetujui untuk :

1. Memberikan hak bebas royalti kepada Perpustakaan UMS atas penulisan karya ilmiah saya, demi pengembangan ilmu pengetahuan.
2. Memberikan hak menyimpan, mengalih mediakan/ mengalih formatkan, mengelola dalam bentuk pangkalan data (database), mendistribusikan serta menampilkannya dalam bentuk softcopy untuk kepentingan akademis kepada Perpustakaan UMS, tanpa perlu meminta ijin dari saya selama tetap mencantumkan nama saya sebagai penulis/pencipta.
3. Bersedia dan menjamin untuk menanggung secara pribadi tanpa melibatkan pihak Perpustakaan UMS, dari semua bentuk tuntutan hukum yang timbul atas pelanggaran hak cipta dalam karya ilmiah ini.

Demikian pernyataan ini saya buat dengan sesungguhnya dan semoga dapat digunakan sebagaimana mestinya.

Surakarta, 19 Desember 2014

Yang Menyatakan



Atina Rahmawati Firda

**PREJUDICE AND STEREOTYPE REFLECTED IN WILLIAM  
SHAKESPEARE'S *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING* (1600): A SOCIAL  
PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE**

Atina Rahmawati Firda

A320100146

[firda.rapunzel@gmail.com](mailto:firda.rapunzel@gmail.com)

Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta

**ABSTRACT**

*The major problem of this study is how prejudice and stereotype happen is reflected in Much Ado About Nothing play. The objectives of this study is to analyze the play based on the structural elements and based on social psychological perspective. The research uses qualitative research. The data of the research consists of primary data and secondary data. The primary data of the research is the Much Ado About Nothing play and the secondary data of the research are other materials related of the study. The result of the study shows the following conclusion. Based on the social psychological perspective analysis, it shows that William Shakespeare illustrated that people tend to have prejudice and build stereotypes about others.*

*Keyword: prejudice, stereotype, Much Ado About Nothing, social psychological perspective.*

## A. Introduction

The drama *Much Ado About Nothing* is written by William Shakespeare, an incredible English poet writer, playwright and actor. As we know, William Shakespeare is famous writer in the world. Some people call him a legend. *Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare is a work that deserves to be read. This comedy drama is predicted to be written in 1598-1599 and published in 1623. *Much Ado About Nothing* is a drama that is different from the others, even though this drama ends with a double wedding happiness, this drama is also flavored with some elements such as happiness, fraternity, and other social values.

This drama tells the story of life around the small town in Messina, Italy. All the characters in this drama has a unique personality. The theme of the drama is common in our daily lives. The author tells the events in the drama with characters that are important to the development of the plot. The story in this drama teaches us to know someone closer to the personality and character before prejudice and build stereotypes. Not only that, this drama also teaches us how importance to always think positive, communicate any problems and solve it with a cool head.

There are literature review concerning with *Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare, written by Thomas J Scheff with her research paper entitled "Gender Wars : Emotions in Much Ado About Nothing". She uses a sociological perspective to analyze the data. The paper explores the relationship between love and war in *Much Ado About Nothing* using a

theory drawn from work on infants—that shows “the affinity between romance, shame and anger”. Focuses on “shame/anger sequences” and “skirmishes”. Second is come from Katherine M. Lyon: “Made Bonds in Much Ado About Nothing and Othello”. For *Journal of the Wooden O Symposium* (2000) : 161-73. She concludes that when the conflict between homosocial bonds and marriage can be peacefully resolved to value the marriage bond highly. Third is from Michael J. Redmon: “‘Tis common knowledge’: Italian Stereotypes and Audience Response in Much Ado About Nothing and The Novella.” For *Shakespeare Yearbook* 13 (2002) : 419-41. Contrast how Shakespeare in *Much Ado About Nothing* and Richard Brome in *The Novella* manipulate audience expectations in their use of Italian cultural and theatrical stereotypes. Consider, especially, the implications of Shakespeare’s refusal “to depict the false staging of Hero’s guilt. Fourth is “Saving the Family Honor in *Much Ado About Nothing*” from Gayle Gaskill for *Shakespeare and Renaissance Association of West Virginia: Selected Papers* 24 (2001): 1-16. Views Benedick as oscillating between military and family honor in *Much Ado About Nothing*, concluding that his devotion to Beatrice, and thus Hero, aligns him with the latter. Fifth is come from Herbert Weil “On Harold Bloom’s Nontheatrical Praise for Shakespeare’s Lovers: *Much Ado About Nothing* and Antony and Cleopatra.” Desmet, Harold Bloom’s Shakespeare [FI :125-41]. (Shakespeare: The Invention of the Human [World Shakespeare Bibliography for 1998, item]). Focuses on Beatrice/Benedick (*Much Ado About Nothing*) and Antony/Cleopatra to consider the strengths of Harold

Bloom's "character criticism, in particular his response to the generally neglected ability of Shakespeare's character to surprise his readers and audiences."

The issue of this research is prejudice and stereotype used by major character of the play it just people tend to prejudice and build stereotype to the others. It is analyzed by using social psychological perspective. So, the writer is interested to analyse prejudice and stereotype based on the play by using social psychological perspective. So, the writer decides to carry out a study entitled: **"PREJUDICE AND STEREOTYPE REFLECTED IN WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING (1600) : A SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE"**.

## **B. Research Method**

The researcher uses qualitative research in this study. It purposes to analyze the Prejudice and Stereotype reflected at William Shakespeare's the *Much Ado About Nothing* using social psychological perspective. The data sources are literary and library data.

The object of the study is Prejudice and Stereotype reflected at William Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing (1600)*. It is analyzed using social psychology perspective. In this study, the researcher uses two types of data sources; they are primary data sources and secondary data sources. The primary data source is *Much Ado About Nothing(1600)* by William Shakespeare. The secondary data sources are the other sources related with this study such as books, website and other source that support this study.

The technique that researcher used in analyzing the data is descriptive qualitative analysis of content. There are some steps of analyzing the data: (1) Reading the drama script repeatedly, (2) Determining the character that will be analyzed, (3) Taking note of the important part in both primary and secondary data, (4) Classifying and determining the relevant data, and (5) Browsing on the internet to search information that relates with drama, such as drama's subtitles, identity, response of the public, etc.

### **C. Research Findings and Discussion**

After analyzing *Much Ado About Nothing*, the researcher found some research findings. The research findings will be discussed below.

#### **1. Findings**

##### **a. Prejudice**

As we know, prejudice is a part of an attitude and that is negative. According to David G. Myers (1996:390), "prejudice is prejudgment; it biases us against a person based solely on our identifying the person with a particular group."

Based on *Much Ado About Nothing* play, there are some prejudice that happen in this drama. The first prejudice appears on Beatrice. Prejudice happens when the messengers came to Leonato and says that Don Pedro will visit to Messina. At that moment Beatrice recounted her experience of a little Cupid and Benedick to messengers. She thinks that a soldier would look very gallant when



he killed many people during the war. But it seems she doubted Benedick. (MAAN. Act I, Sc i : 39 – 45)

The second prejudice experience appear in the same moment with the first prejudice. After talking about Cupid, the messengers said that Benedick is a good soldier. But Beatrice does not seem to believe it. Benedick job as a soldier who just obey his superiors make Beatrice think that Benedick like dolls. (MAAN. Act 1, Sc i : 57 – 58)

The third prejudice appears in the conversation between Claudio and his close friend Benedick. Benedick give his opinion about Hero that Hero was too short, too brown and too small to be praised. He also said that if Hero does the little different from what she used to do she will look ugly. In summary probably Hero is not the type for Benedick, therefore he could say something like that. (MAAN. Act I, Sc i : 178 - 184)

The fourth prejudice is coming from Hero's statement. Usually women like to be treated nicely. Like courtesy and hospitality for example. According to Beatrice, Don John is the one who looks so sour, even by just looking at him it can make her feel heartburn. Hero, as a woman who very polite can say that Don John has a very gloomy attitude. Gloomy here can mean not good, not friendly to others and may seem fierce. (MAAN. Act II, Sc i : 3 – 6)

The fifth prejudice is evident from the statement of Beatrice. She thought that the man who has a beard looks more macho than men who do not have a beard. He also said that she wanted to get the man who more than a man. (MAAN. Act II, Sc i : 38- 44)

**b. Stereotype**

David G Myers (1996:391) also define that stereotype is, “A belief about the personal attributes of a group of people. Stereotypes can be overgeneralized, inaccurate, and resistant to new information.”

Based on *Much Ado About Nothing* play, there are some stereotype that happen in this drama. The first stereotypes appear in conversation between Claudio and Benedick. In this moment Benedick give his comment about Claudio who fall in love with Hero. In this dialog, Benedick asks Claudio whether Claudio wants to buy Hero. (MAAN. Act I, Sc i : 187 – 190)

Second stereotypes occur to Beatrice. In this dialogue Beatrice think that a man who has handsome face, lively and rich can get all the women in this world that he needs and wants. This shows if the women can be bought only with handsomeness and wealth. (MAAN. Act II, Sc i : 15 - 18)

The third stereotype appear from Don Pedro’s statement. Don Pedro as a man and Prince of Arragon were thinking that women easily fall in love and easily manipulated. (MAAN. Act I, Sc i : 320)

The fourth stereotype is visible from Beatrice's statement. As a woman Beatrice thinks that Don Pedro as the Prince of Arragon is someone in high social class. In Beatrice's opinion, Don Pedro is a very expensive figure to wear every day. (MAAN. Act II, Sc i : 342 – 344)

The fifth stereotype visible come from Borachio, Don John's follower. It seems Borachio thought that she could easily seduce Margaret, which makes it think that all women are easily controlled. (MAAN. Act II, Sc ii : 16 -18)

The sixth stereotype appears to Leonato in the church in the Hero-Claudio's wedding day. Because of his disappointment feeling, Claudio insulting Hero in front of her father that the action of unfaithful and a traitor to the pair as low as maid profession. (MAAN. Act IV, Sc i : 22 – 25)

Seventh stereotype is visible from Leonato's statement. Leonato very ashamed of what was done by his daughter Hero. Leonato wants God to punish Hero. He thinks that death is a good way to cover her shame. For allegations that she didn't do. (MAAN. Act IV, Sc i : 117 – 119)

The eight stereotype visible from Beatrice's statement. As the closest cousin Hero, Beatrice knows that Hero maligned. She felt sick because her cousin abused, vilified, and scorned. She wants to

be a boy in order to avenge all evil treatment Claudio at his cousin.  
(MAAN. Act IV, Sc i : 308 - 313)

**c. Subject and Object of Prejudice and Stereotype**

Prejudices and stereotypes can be present and occur in anyone. As we know prejudice and stereotypes can occur for several reasons such as gender, social class, or education and can be conducted by men and women. As it happens in the play Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare.

A table of subject and object of Prejudice and Stereotype:

Social Relation	Subject	Object
Gender	Men	Women
Social Class	Upper Class	Lower Class

From the above table it can be seen that the prejudice and stereotypes for gender performed by men to women. From the category of social class can also be seen that the prejudice and stereotypes can be done by upper class to lower class.

**d. Causes of Prejudice and Stereotype**

Prejudice and stereotypes is a thought that often occurs in our society. Whether it's about race, gender, social class, and others. In the play by William Shakespeare, there are several causes that make someone prejudiced and minded to concluded a case based on the perception of the person or group.

This case is based on several feelings, which are:

1. Underestimate

Underestimate happened to Beatrice and Benedick. As a woman and a nephew of the governor of Messina, Beatrice thinking and regard Benedick as a man who was nothing more than a puppet. This happens because Beatrice think that Benedick's profession as a soldier just obey the commander as same as a doll.

2. Sense of disappointment

Sense of disappointment appears from Claudio. He is very sad and disappointed when he hears that his girlfriend cheating with another man. Although the news was not true and just slander, but Claudio's disappointment continues on his wedding day and likens his lover Hero with a maid. In the social class, the maid is a job that is low. Equating lover with a maid is very pathetic.

Although not all preconceptions is true, but prejudice and stereotypes consciously or not have roots in the society.

**e. Impact of Prejudice and Stereotype**

Prejudices and stereotypes itself has an impact on individuals and society. Usually tend to negative.

As for the impact of prejudice and stereotypes in Much Ado About Nothing as follows:

## 1. Hatred

Hatred appears from the Beatrice. Feelings underestimate owned Beatrice to Benedick seems to have given birth to hatred and a feeling sour for Benedick. Not only that they are both also involved in the merry war, in which Beatrice and Benedick booing and mocking each other.

## 2. Injustice

Injustice in this drama was shown after Claudio said his disappointment to Hero on their wedding day. Hero slandered having an affair with another man and she gets punished by eliminating her from the community. Without asking for an explanation to what actually happened to Hero and without first communicating to both sides, Hero get the punishment. Of course it is not fair, especially for women.

Preconceived is not entirely true. It also can be changed at any time. Depending on how a person absorbs facts and information correctly. Supposedly we have to look at the facts and get to know someone based on character and personality before prejudiced or judge the person.

## f. Discussion

There are social relation in Much Ado About Nothing play; they are prejudice and stereotypes. Stereotype is a generalized image

of a person or group which does acknowledge individual differences and which often prejudiced to that person or group.

Prejudice and stereotype that appear in the play are formed by view of someone about gender and social class. The characters come from different social classes, there are from kingdom, the respectable people and there who an army. But prejudice and stereotypes more often appears in the form of gender. In prejudice toward gender and social class, involved several roles which they are the people of the town Messina. Most of them think that the woman is the creature who is weak, easily influenced and manipulated.

According to Welleck and Warren (1949 : 81), psychology of literature is divided into four they are:

By 'psychology of literature', we may mean the psychological study of the writer, as type and as individual, or the study of the creative process, or the study of the psychological types and laws present within works of literature, or, finally, the effects of literature upon its readers (audience psychology).

Of the four kinds of psychology of literature above, the most appropriate is the study of psychological phenomenon present within literary works. Thus the writer were thinking that Much Ado About Nothing is a story that is filled with preconceptions but preconceptions among those people there is still feeling of love and care for others.

#### **D. Conclusion**

After analyzing *Much Ado About Nothing*, there are some conclusion in this research. Based on psychological analysis, it can be concluded that in this play, Shakespeare presents a psychological phenomenon in which people often consider other people as the “others” who are different from them. In this play Shakespeare also illustrated that it is hard for people to accept others.



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Gayle Gaskill. 2001. *Shakespeare and Renaissance Association of West Virginia: Selected Papers 24 : 1-16*. "Saving the Family Honor in *Much Ado About Nothing*".
- Herbert Weil "On Harold Bloom's Nontheatrical Praise for Shakespeare's Lovers: *Much Ado About Nothing* and Antony and Cleopatra."
- Katherine M.Lyon. 2000. *Journal of the Wooden O Symposium : 161-73*. "Made Bonds in *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Othello*".
- Michael J. Redmon. 2000. *Shakespeare Yearbook 13 : 419-41*. "'Tis common knowledge': Italian Stereotypes and Audience Response in *Much Ado About Nothing* and *The Novella*."
- Myers, David G. 1996. *Social Psychology Fifth Edition*. Michigan: The McGraw Hill Companies.
- M.A., W.J. Craig. 1894. *Shakespeare Complete Works Edited With a Glossary*. New York. Toronto. Oxford University Press.
- Thomas J Scheff. "Gender Wars : Emotions in *Much Ado About Nothing*".
- Welleck, Rene and Austin Warren. 1956. *Theory of Literature*. Third Edition. New York: Harcourt Brace Company